Tax Collection by NSCN

2402. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleaded to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in clear violation of the cease-fire agreement, the NSCN in Nagaland collected Tax from Innocent, Artisans and Craftsmen by giving them official receipts, printed on behalf of Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland, Ministry of Forest, Environment, Mineral Resources and Trade and that such collection was being done in the presence of the State Police Force; and

(b) if so, what steps the State Government or the Central Government have taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Instances of the Naga underground outfits, including the NSCN (I/M) with whem the government of India has entered into a cease-fire agreement, indulging in forcible extortion under the grab of "tax collection by the so called Government of the people's Republic of Nagland" have come to notice of the Central Governnment. It is, however, not correct to say that such collections are done in the presence of the State Police force.

(b) Instructions have been issued to the State Government to deal firmly with such situations in accordance with the law of the land. NSCN (I\M) have also been warned that such extortion as against the Agreed Ground Rules for cease-fire and that continuation of such practices may seriously jeopardise the cease-fire agreement and invite appropriate response from the security forces. A number of NSCN (I\M) cadres indulging in extortion have also been arrested.

A security Plan for Dimapur has also been put into place to curb such unlawful activities.

Assam CM's Plea for More Powers to States

2403. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Chief Minister of Assam has recently made a plea publicly, for transfer of more powers to States, with only currency, foreign relations, communications and defence to be retained by the Centre; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

A bolition of Untouchability

2404. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in 90% of the 40,000 village in Rajasthan untouchability is still prevailing; if so, the details; and

(b) how Government plan to stop this inhuman practice from all the villages in Rajasthan and in what period?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conversions in the Country

2405. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of allurement for conversion in different parts of the country, particularly in tribal and other vulnerable areas, have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that people belonging to economically weaker sections are not exploited?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI: (a) to (c) According to Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India, all persons are equally entited to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. Since, 'Public Order' is listed as Item No. 1 of list-II State List of 7th